

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MBFR V 00282 031902Z

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00

EUR-12 H-01 INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02

OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

TRSE-00 NSC-05 /089 W

-----040539Z 058569 /15

R 031759Z JUN 77

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2173

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0282

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: SUBSTITUTION OF ACTUAL FOR AUTHORIZED US DATA

1. NATO MBFR WORKING GROUP HAS PUBLISHED IN DRAFT THE 1977 EDITION OF THE DOCUMENT, AC-276(77)D/6, WHICH SERVES AS A BASIS FOR MBFR DATA. THAT DRAFT INCORPORATES A US DATA SUBMISSION WHICH, AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS, REPORTS THE AUTHORIZED STRENGTH OF US FORCES, NOT THE ACTUAL ASSIGNED STRENGTH. FOR REASONS DISCUSSED BELOW NOW IS A PROPITIOUS TIME FOR THE US TO BEGIN REPORTING ACTUAL STRENGTHS. WESTERN REPRESENTATIVES HAVE ALREADY TOLD THE EAST IN VIENNA TALKS THAT WESTERN DATA REPRESENTS ACTUAL STRENGTH.

2. WHEN THE WORKING GROUP BEGAN COMPILING DATA ON WESTERN FORCES FOR MBFR PURPOSES, THE US CHOSE TO RESPOND WITH
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MBFR V 00282 031902Z

AUTHORIZED DATA. AWARE THAT THIS CREATED AN ANOMALY BETWEEN THE US AND OTHER WESTERN PARTICIPANTS, THE WORKING GROUP ASKED FOR RECONSIDERATION AND FOR AN ACTUAL FIGURE. BECAUSE US STRENGTH AT THE TIME WAS AS MUCH AS 10,000 BELOW THE AUTHORIZED LEVEL, THE US DECLINED TO ALTER ITS POSITION OR TO PROVIDE AN ACTUAL FIGURE FOR NATO'S INFORMATION.

3. NOW, HOWEVER, AND FOR SOME TIME IN THE RECENT PAST, ACTUAL US FORCE STRENGTH HAS MET OR EXCEEDED AUTHORIZED LEVELS FOR BOTH GROUND AND AIR FORCES. THIS SITUATION OBVIATES WHAT WERE THE MOST IMMEDIATE PRACTICAL REASONS FOR REPORTING AUTHORIZED STRENGTH, THE DESIRE TO AVOID A US CEILING BASED ON THE ORIGINAL LOW US ACTUAL STRENGTH AND THE UNWILLINGNESS OF THE US TO SHOW THAT ITS FORCES WERE UNDER AUTHORIZED LEVELS.

4. A SECOND REASON FREQUENTLY CITED FOR USE OF THE AUTHORIZED DATA WAS THAT THE ACTUAL STRENGTH VARIED AND WOULD THEREFORE BE LIKELY TO CHANGE ANNUALLY, OR HOWEVER OFTEN MBFR REPORTS WERE REQUIRED BY NATO. HOWEVER, RECENT EXPERIENCE WITH AUTHORIZED STRENGTH INDICATES THAT IT TOO FLUCTUATES. THE US ARMY AUTHORIZED STRENGTH REPORTED IN THE DRAFT D/6 IS UP FROM LAST YEAR AND WILL BE UP AGAIN BY OCTOBER. US AIR FORCE AUTHORIZED STRENGTH DROPPED FROM 34,000 TO 30,000 IN RECENT YEARS, AND THEN INCREASED AGAIN IN STEPS UP TO 34,000 (ROUNDED). THROUGHOUT THAT PERIOD THE ACTUAL STRENGTH REMAINED FAIRLY CONSTANT AT ABOUT 32,000, RECENTLY RISING TO THE NEW AUTHORIZED LEVEL OF 34,000 (ROUNDED).

5. SEEN FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE DELEGATION, THERE ARE SOME OBVIOUS DISADVANTAGES TO THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENT OF THE US REPORTING ITS DATA ON AN AUTHORIZED BASIS WHILE MOST OF THE REST OF NATO REPORTS ON AN ACTUAL BASIS. FIRST, WESTERN REPRESENTATIVES HAVE TOLD THE EAST THAT WESTERN DATA REPRESENTS ACTUAL STRENGTH. SECOND, THE CONTINUED US USE OF AUTHORIZED DATA IN MBFR COULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT AT A LATER DATE TO INTRODUCE ACTUAL DATA AS A BASIS FOR REDUCTIONS. THIRD,
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 MBFR V 00282 031902Z

THE WEST SHOULD AVOID PROVIDING THE EAST WITH A BASIS FOR ITSELF EMPLOYING OTHER THAN ACTUAL DATA ON PACT FORCES, OR FOR CHARGING THE US WITH REPORTING ON A BASIS OTHER THAN ACTUAL STRENGTH.

7. FOURTH, US ADOPTION OF AN ACTUAL REPORTING SYSTEM WOULD END ONE ANOMALY IN NATO PERSONNEL REPORTING, THUS MAKING NATO DATA MORE CONSISTENT. THE REPORT "BASIS FOR COUNTING GROUND MANPOWER STRENGTH: (AC/276-WP(75)13) INDICATED THAT ALL OTHER NATIONS WERE FILING DATA BASED ON A TYPE OF ACTUAL STRENGTH. THAT REPORT ALSO NOTED THAT IT IS NATO POLICY THAT "EXPLORATIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS WILL DISCUSS REDUCTIONS IN ACTUAL STRENGTH." C-M(72)81 REV.

8. THUS, SHIFTING US REPORTING TO AN ACTUAL BASIS WOULD SEEM BOTH ADVISABLE AND FEASIBLE AT THIS TIME. A CORRIGENDUM TO THE US 1977 SUBMISSION COULD BE SUBMITTED PRIOR TO NATIONAL APPROVAL OF D(77)6. ALTHOUGH THAT MAY SOMEWHAT DELAY THE FINAL PUBLICATION OF THIS YEAR'S DOCUMENT,

THAT WOULD NOT POSE AN IMMEDIATE PROBLEM IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.
ON BALANCE, THE ADVANTAGES OF SUCH A CHANGE WOULD APPEAR
TO OUTWEIGH THE INCONVENIENCE OF A SLIGHT DELAY AT THIS
TIME. RESOR

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DOCUMENTS, DATA, MUTUAL FORCE REDUCTIONS, FORCE & TROOP LEVELS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MBFRV00282
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770199-0803
Format: TEL
From: MBFR VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770693/aaaaddrx.tel
Line Count: 120
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b05bc785-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2289275
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SUBSTITUTION OF ACTUAL FOR AUTHORIZED US DATA
TAGS: PARM, NATO
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b05bc785-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009